

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3288, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, this week, as world leaders convene in Copenhagen, Denmark, for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, the House of Representatives has taken an important, if incremental, step to improve our Nation's ability to strategically respond and adapt to an unpredictable climate by authorizing a study which advances the idea of creating a Federal National Climate Service.

H.R. 3288, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010, directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, to enter into a contract with the National Academy of Public Administration to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency of alternative organizational frameworks for the establishment of a National Climate Service within NOAA.

I would like to commend my colleague from Wisconsin and the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Congressman DAVID OBEY, and the rest of the conferees, for their recognition that the establishment of a National Climate Service within NOAA is absolutely critical at this time. The American public will need climate information, products and services in order to plan for and adapt to climate variability, and it is essential that the Federal Government have in place an organizational architecture that is science-based, reliable, and responsive to address this need.

Most important, this study will provide another opportunity to comparatively evaluate and assess the merits of a public-private approach for a National Climate Service. Last June, I introduced H.R. 2685, the Climate and Ocean Research and Coordination Act of 2009, to establish, in part, a National Climate Enterprise comprised of federal and non-federal partners which would have NOAA function as the operational lead. This framework, which would build from and strengthen existing Federal climate research and science capacities within NOAA, NASA, the U.S. Geological Survey, National Science Foundation, and other agencies, would also incorporate the significant contributions of non-Federal climate scientists, researchers and stakeholders to provide to end users on the ground climate information, products and services at variable scales that are credible, reliable and usable.

As NOAA and the National Academy of Public Administration consider alternative frameworks for a National Climate Service, I respectfully urge consideration of the public/private concepts within H.R. 2685, which have been enthusiastically endorsed by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, UCAR, the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, and the Coastal States Organization. All

Americans, from the District of Columbia to my congressional district in Guam, should have at their disposal an effective and accessible National Climate Service, and I again commend Chairman OBEY for advancing this idea.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Chair, I would like to speak about a provision I authored that was included in the manager's amendment. The provision provides that a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization shall be liable if it is grossly negligent in determining a credit rating. My intention in drafting this provision was only to impose potential liability on ratings provided pursuant to a contract with the issuer of the debt. Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations that provide ratings solely for the purpose of journalism, without being paid by the issuer, do not face potential liability under this provision.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF COLONEL VENETIA E. BROWN, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Colonel Venetia E. Brown for 30 years of exceptional service and dedication to the United States Air Force and enduring contributions to our great Nation. She will retire from active duty on March 31, 2010.

Colonel Brown grew up in Niceville, Florida and entered the United States Air Force in 1980 as a graduate of the distinguished Officers' Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. She has served in a variety of personnel assignments at the unit and headquarters level both stateside and overseas, and has excelled in all leadership positions throughout her career. Her unique leadership and managerial talents were evident early in her career, affirmed by her selection as a captain to organize and direct the wing survival and recovery center, a function normally performed by a colonel. As a testament to her leadership skills, Colonel Brown has been the

commander of a military personnel flight, mission support squadron, and deputy commander of a large support group and has produced outstanding results during inspections as well as motivated her subordinates to achieve their dreams. Additionally, she is a distinguished alumnus of Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, directing manpower and personnel legislative matters.

Prior to her current assignment, Colonel Brown served as the Chief, Compensation and Legislation Division, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Headquarters United States Air Force. She developed the first-ever Air Force Bonus Review Board resulting in \$125M savings during fiscal year 2006 and \$1B in out-years. Additionally, Colonel Brown secured \$20.7M from the Air Force Board for compensation legislative initiatives and ramrodded Transformation legislation on civilian pay/hiring flexibility. A powerhouse crusader and remarkable leader, Colonel Brown was consistently given the tough issues and never failed the men and women of the Air Force.

In her most recent assignment, Colonel Brown served as the Director of the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council, Air Force Review Boards Agency, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. Over the past 5 and half years Colonel Brown guided the Secretary of the Air Force's Personnel Council through over 10,000 Board actions. Her excellent decisions ensured due process, equity, consistency, and fairness. Colonel Brown has the distinct honor of being consistently ranked as the number one of five directors in the Air Force Review Boards Agency. She has always upheld the highest standards of professional conduct and her warrior ethos has ensured complete success at every juncture and will be truly missed. I ask my Colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere thanks to Venetia, her spouse Michael, and their son Damone for their unwavering support of our country and the freedom we hold so dear. We congratulate Colonel Brown on the completion of an exemplary active-duty career and wish her well in the next phase of her life.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Project Name: Buses and Bus Facility Improvement, Baldwin County, AL

Requesting Member: Congressman JO BONNER

Bill: Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Account: Buses & Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Baldwin County Commission

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.